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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/684,710	10/15/2003	Joachim Tachtler	080437.52624US	3625

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EXAMINER


TRAN, BINH Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3748

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/684,710	Applicant(s) TACHTLER ET AL. 	
	Examiner BINH Q. TRAN	Art Unit 3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/01/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in–

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Friebe et al. (Friebe) (Patent Number 6,588,211).

Regarding claims 1, and 11, Friebe discloses a vehicle and method for making a vehicle comprising: an internal combustion engine (1); a catalyst (11) operatively associated with the internal combustion engine for processing exhaust gases of the internal combustion engine; and a fuel cell (2) thermally coupled with the catalyst (11) in such a manner that heat in waste gases of the fuel cell is supplied at least partially to the catalyst to heat the catalyst (e.g. See col. 3, lines 57-58; col. 4, lines 1-39).

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Regarding claims 2, and 12, Friebe further discloses that the fuel cell includes a waste gas pipeline that is connected with the catalyst in such a manner that hot waste gases from the fuel cell can be passed through the catalyst (e.g. See col. 3, lines 57-58; col. 4, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 3, and 13, Friebe further discloses a switch, with which the waste gases can be passed through the catalyst or discharged to the atmosphere (e.g. See col. 3, lines 57-58; col. 4, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 4, and 14, Friebe further discloses that a heat exchanger, via which the waste gases of the fuel cell transfer a portion of their heat to the catalyst (e.g. See col. 3, lines 57-58; col. 4, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 5, and 15, Friebe further discloses that the heat exchanger includes a helix tube, which is disposed spirally about the catalyst (e.g. See col. 3, lines 57-58; col. 4, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 6-10, and 16-20, Friebe further discloses an afterburner, in which unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted and which is disposed between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger (e.g. See col. 3, lines 57-58; col. 4, lines 1-39).

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of five patents:

Parchamazad (Patent Number 6352792), Murphy et al. (Patent Number 5845485), Senner (Patent Number 6528191), Katashiba et al. (Patent Number 5653106), and Faville et al. (Patent

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Number 6562496) all discloses an exhaust gas purification for use with an internal combustion engine.

Conclusion

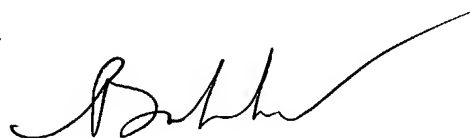
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Binh Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-0245. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reach on (703) 308-2623. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

BT

June 01, 2004



Binh Tran

Patent Examiner

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